

INVENTORY SHEET FOR GROUP NOMINATIONS: IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, BOISE, IDAHO

NOMINATION: Long Valley Finnish Structures (Thematic Group)

SITE NAME: Matt/Ruatsala Homestead SITE # 13

LOCATION: Approximately three-quarters mile north of Kantola Lane on the east side of Farm to Market Road.

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Dorothy Hartley, c/o Edward D. Frisbee and Robert Crawford, Route 1, Box 81, McCall, ID 83638

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Lake Fork, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one *2.5 see (10)*

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The nomination includes the Matt Ruatsala Homestead building and the property on which it stands; NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 12, T17N, R3E.

UTM(S): 11/5,75,450/49,64,110

DATE OR PERIOD: ca. 1915 EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: State

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

fair condition altered moved

DESCRIPTION:

This hewn-log home, measuring approximately twenty-one-by-thirty-feet, contains four rooms also partitioned by hewn-log walls. The east-west partition extends through the outside timbers in the typical Finnish style. The corners are double notched, and the logs fit tightly together, which indicates the use of a "vara" or scribe. The building has been moved to its present location from the Ruatsala homestead, and before the move was taller than it now is. The board gables do not reach as high, apparently, as originally, for the upstairs rooms have very low ceilings. The building contains six windows and three doors.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This is one of the largest hewn-log homes of the Finnish homestead era left in Long Valley. Although it has been moved it is still very sound. It is a good example of how the Finns worked with hewn logs in structures larger than the typical twelve-by-sixteen-foot homestead cabin, how they partitioned off rooms on the interior by framing in hewn-log walls which were notched into each other very tightly.



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Matt Ruatsala Homestead, site #13
Long Valley, Valley County, Idaho

Photographer:
Alice Koskella
1980

Negative on file in the Koskella Finnish Collection,
available through the Idaho State Historical Society

View from southwest

Photograph one of one